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Chair: Mr. Zdorov (Vice-Chair) ..... (Belarus)

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In the absence of Mr. Momen (Bangladesh), Mr. Zdorov (Belarus), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

Agenda item 17: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*)

(a) International trade and development (*continued*) (A/C.2/66/L.50)

1. **Mr. Suárez Salvia** (Argentina) introduced on behalf of the Group of 77 and China draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.50, entitled "Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries".

Agenda item 19: Sustainable development (*continued*) (A/C.2/66/L.37 and A/C.2/66/L.25/Rev.1)

2. **The Chair** drew attention to draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.37, entitled "Sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America", which was being submitted by the delegation of Honduras on behalf of the original sponsors listed in the document and Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, the Gambia, Grenada, Haiti, Italy, Monaco, Montenegro, Palau, the Philippines, Saint Lucia, Seychelles, Spain and the United Republic of Tanzania.

3. **Ms. Flores** (Honduras), introducing the draft resolution, said that it had been drafted by her delegation on behalf of the member countries of the Central American Integration System following the meeting of their Heads of State and Government in July 2011. On that occasion, 2012 had been declared as the Year of Sustainable Tourism in Central America in view of the importance of sustainable tourism as a tool for sustainable development, regional integration and protection of the natural and cultural heritage. She urged adoption by consensus of the draft resolution, which had no programme budget implications.

4. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.25/Rev.1, on the oil slick on Lebanese shores, which had no programme budget implications. He informed the Committee that a recorded vote had been requested.

5. **Mr. Oussein** (Comoros) asked which delegation had made the request.

6. **The Chair** said that the request had been made by the delegation of Israel.

7. **Ms. Davidovich** (Israel), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, expressed Israel's disappointment with the draft resolution, which sought to advance the political agenda of specific parties. Rather than addressing pressing economic and social development issues, the Committee was wasting its time on a politically motivated draft resolution that sought to institutionalize an anti-Israel narrative within the United Nations. Five years had elapsed since the oil slick, and its effects had diminished, but the draft resolution had only become longer and more radical.

8. The draft resolution made no reference to the origin of the conflict, namely the armed attack launched by the Hezbollah terrorist organization across an internationally recognized border, or to the significant environmental damage sustained by Israel. It also failed to recognize Israel's extensive cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations working to address the environmental situation along the coast of Lebanon, or to acknowledge that Israel was an active participant in the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean. It ignored the findings of the report by the Post-Conflict Assessment Branch of UNEP, which painted a picture of the situation drastically different from the one implied by the draft resolution. Such oversights were not accidental; they unveiled the real motive behind the proposal. Israel had therefore called for a vote on the draft resolution and would vote against it. She urged other delegations to do the same.

9. **Mr. Jawhara** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that in 2006 Israel had been the aggressor at the origin of the disaster. It had repeatedly ignored international appeals to assume responsibility for compensating the affected countries and had thus become an outlaw in the eyes of the international community.

10. *At the request of the representative of Israel, a recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.25/Rev.1.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia

and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Colombia, Panama.

11. *Draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.25/Rev.1 was adopted by 158 votes to 7, with 3 abstentions.*

12. **Mr. Jaber** (Lebanon) noted that the Secretary-General's report contained in document A/66/297 reported that the destruction by the Israeli Air Force of oil storage tanks in the vicinity of the Jiyeh power plant in Lebanon on 15 July 2006 had resulted in the release of about 15,000 tons of fuel oil into the Mediterranean Sea, leading to the contamination of about 150 km of coastline in Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. That had caused damage to the environment and hindered efforts to achieve sustainable development. As the Second Committee's mandate unequivocally included sustainable development issues, Israel's assertion that the Committee was not authorized to deal with the issue of the oil slick was demonstrably false.

13. Israel should therefore cease wasting the Committee's time, halt its violation of international law and assume its responsibility for prompt and adequate compensation to Lebanon as called for by successive United Nations resolutions. Israel had violated 89 Security Council resolutions and over 100 General Assembly resolutions, and yet no sanctions were applied against it.

14. Bringing Israel to face its undeniable responsibility to compensate for the damage it had inflicted on Lebanon simply required courage and a strong moral stand. The United Nations should be the personification of those values and should ensure that peace prevailed over conflict, conscience over self-interest, and justice over injustice. It must put pressure on Israel to implement the resolution, and must ensure that Israel could not remain above international law.

15. Those people in Lebanon who had lost family members as a result of Israeli aggression were asking why Israel could not be held accountable for its actions. The answer could be found in Israeli writings: a recent editorial from the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* had expressed the view that Israel's Government was run by extremists out of touch with reality. Moreover, an Israeli professor of Jewish philosophy and history had recently written that the ethos of the Israeli army was based on a disregard for moral and human values, and a desire to spread fear. Only by implementing the relevant United Nations resolutions would Israel be enabled to take its take place alongside civilized nations.

Draft resolution entitled "International cooperation and coordination for the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan" (A/C.2/66/L.35)

16. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.35, which had no programme budget implications. The sponsors listed in

the document had been joined by Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Spain, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand and Uzbekistan.

17. *Draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.35 was adopted.*

(b) Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (*continued*) (A/C.2/66/L.26 and A/C.2/66/L.51)

Draft resolutions on follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/C.2/66/L.26 and A/C.2/66/L.51)

18. **The Chair** drew attention to draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.51, which was being submitted by Mr. Landveld (Suriname), Rapporteur of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.26. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

19. *Draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.51 was adopted.*

20. **Mr. Rangel** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) recalled the reservations of Venezuela with regard to paragraphs 27 (a) and (b) of the Mauritius Strategy given that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela was not a party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and was therefore not bound by its provisions. Those provisions were not applicable as customary law unless incorporated into domestic law.

21. *Draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.26 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 24: Operational activities for development (*continued*)

(b) South-South cooperation for development (*continued*) (A/C.2/66/L.2, A/C.2/66/L.46, A/C.2/66/L.3, A/C.2/66/L.4, A/C.2/66/L.47 and A/C.2/66/L.48)

22. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.46 (South-South cooperation) and draft decisions A/C.2/66/L.47 (Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation) and A/C.2/66/L.48 (United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation), which were being submitted by Mr. Yohanna (Nigeria), Vice-Chair of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.2 and draft decisions A/C.2/66/L.3 and A/C.2/66/L.4. The draft resolution and the two draft decisions had no programme budget implications.

23. **Mr. Al Hadhrami** (Yemen), facilitator, said that, at the end of the first preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.46, the following footnote should be added: "See General Assembly resolution 64/222, annex". He urged adoption of the three draft texts by consensus.

24. *Draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.46, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

25. *Draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.2 was withdrawn.*

26. *Draft decision A/C.2/66/L.47 was adopted.*

27. *Draft decision A/C.2/66/L.3 was withdrawn.*

28. *Draft decision A/C.2/66/L.48 was adopted.*

29. *Draft decision A/C.2/66/L.4 was withdrawn.*

The meeting was suspended at 4.05 p.m. and resumed at 4.30 p.m.

Agenda item 61: Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources (*continued*) (A/C.2/66/L.22)

30. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.22, on permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources, which had been submitted by the delegation of Egypt on behalf of the sponsors listed in the document and of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Guinea-Bissau, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Namibia, Niger, Turkey and Viet Nam. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications, and a recorded vote had been requested.

31. **Ms. Davidovich** (Israel), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that the Committee was

once again engaged in an annual ritual unbefitting a professional body. Rather than dealing with important global issues such as agriculture and food security, desertification and climate change, the Committee was wasting its valuable time on a politicized draft resolution that undermined the Committee's credibility as an impartial and professional body. In reality, Israel shared the vital interests of its neighbours in preserving and protecting the natural environment, but the draft resolution overlooked the numerous agreements between Israel and the Palestinian Authority that had already transferred jurisdiction over those issues to the latter. Basic facts were irrelevant to the sponsors of the resolution, indeed stood in the way of the advancement of their political agenda.

32. The outstanding environmental issues could be resolved only through direct negotiations. Israel remained willing to share its knowledge and experience with its neighbours, and ready to work with them on meeting the common challenges of climate change, desertification and land degradation and the growing needs of people in the region. The draft resolution served the interests neither of the Palestinian people nor of any party seeking a peaceful resolution of the conflict in the Middle East. For those reasons, Israel had called for a vote on the resolution, would vote against it, and encouraged other delegations that cared about the peace process and the professional nature of the Committee to do likewise.

33. *At the request of the delegation of Israel, a recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.22.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Australia, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Panama, Saint Lucia, Vanuatu.

34. *Draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.22 was adopted by 158 votes to 6, with 7 abstentions.*

35. **Mr. White** (Australia) said that Australia strongly supported the principle of the permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory over their natural resources, which was integral to the independence and viability of a Palestinian State. Australia was taking practical steps in support of that principle, and would be providing humanitarian aid to a value of $300 million to the Palestinian people over the coming five years. In a change from its position in the past, Australia had abstained from voting, in order to reflect its concern that the resolution as framed did not adequately

recognize Israel's legitimate security needs and right to defend itself. Strongly committed to the peace process, Australia urged both parties to the dispute to return to direct negotiations as a matter of urgency.

36. **Mr. Yawhara** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that Israel had once again accused the Committee of politicization, even though it was focusing on an important subject which fell within its mandate, namely the negative economic and social effects of the illegitimate practices of Israel, the occupying Power, against the population of the occupied Arab territories. Those practices violated the principles of international law and international humanitarian law, as well as repeated United Nations resolutions. They prevented the achievement of the most minimal levels of development and the establishment of decent living standards for the Arab population living under Israeli occupation.

37. The resolution joined the many earlier ones that had expressed the displeasure of the overwhelming majority of the international community at Israel's lack of respect for its obligations under international law and international humanitarian law. Israel's lack of compliance with the repeated demands of the international community proved that it considered itself to be above the law and exempt from accountability. Unfortunately, it had the support of a small number of States that placed their own interests above recognition of the rights of people living under occupation, including the right to exercise full sovereignty over their natural resources in order to further their development.

38. The adoption of the present resolution sent a clear message to Israel that it must stop its continued violations of international law and customary norms, in the form of confiscation of agricultural land, construction of illegal settlements and destruction and exploitation of natural resources, which deprived the population of the occupied territories of the benefits of them.

39. **Mr. AlHantouli** (Observer for Palestine) said that the resolution just adopted once again reaffirmed the right of the Palestinian people to sovereignty over their natural resources which were one of the main sources of their development and growth. The resolution once again reminded Israel, the occupying Power, of the position of the international community which clearly rejected the continued colonial occupation of the Palestinian territory seized in 1967, including East Jerusalem and the occupied Syrian Golan, and called upon Israel to cease all its violations of international resolutions and norms and end its heinous exploitation, pollution and theft of the Palestinians' land, water and agriculture.

40. On 15 November, the Palestinian people had celebrated the 23rd anniversary of Palestine's declaration of independence, embodying its choice and that of leadership to seek a just and permanent peace, based on a two-State solution and on international rules of conduct. However, Israel had reacted to that choice with continued occupation and violations, expropriation of territory and construction of settlements and illegal walls of separation.

41. In voting in favour of the resolution States had renewed their position in line with international law and relevant United Nations resolutions which demanded that Israel end its occupation and recognize the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and sovereignty over its territory and natural resources.

The meeting rose at 5.05 p.m.